

Commissioner Minutes of December 8, 2020

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Taylor. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

The Board reviewed the agenda. The Board will add item #6 to New Business to allow for the approval of the MMRMA renewal for 2021 and the appointment of a plan designee. *Motion by Commissioner Kyle Grove, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to proceed with the consent agenda as amended with approval of all minutes and correspondence as listed.* Commissioner Moore stated she will be abstaining from the approval of the minutes of November 24, 2020, as she was not appointed to the Board until December 1st. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

The cash balances were then read by Commissioner Taylor. *General Fund - \$298,162.94.*

Public Comments:

Joel Vernier, Secord Township, encouraged the Board to allow for a call-in number for public use at future meetings, as many residents do not have access to internet.

Kelly Bax, Coleman, Michigan, voiced her concerns on the Board's failure to respond to her questions and the use of their Civil Counsel. Ms. Bax stated she would like her questions and answers entered into the record of the meeting for the public to be able to view, noting the Board has taken an oath of office to represent the residents of this community. Attorney Jaynie Hoerauf spoke on the orderly process of public comments that the Board should be following and how the Board should accept comments from the public. Discussion. *The November questions and answers from Ms. Bax will be entered onto the record of this meeting.*

Robert Huntoon, Billings Township, stated he disagrees with the comments from the Attorney regarding her opinion on the Open Meetings Act and his concerns on the monetary obligations the property owners will be faced with.

Kelly Bax, Coleman, Michigan, stated her concerns with the FOIA requests showing Midland County signatures but no signatures from Gladwin County. Discussion on the condemnation paperwork.

Finance Matters – Commissioner Taylor:

1. Darrell Schlese, Court Administrator, has requested a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,050.00 from 101-148-706.002 to the 269 Law Library Fund. *Motion by Commissioner Taylor, supported by Commissioner Diller, to allow the Treasurer to perform the budget amendment as outlined.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

New Business:

1. *Motion by Commissioner Rick Grove, supported by Commissioner Diller, to allow Civil Attorney Hoerauf permission to file an Order of Abatement in the Amerihemp Zoning Violation.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
2. *Motion by Commissioner Diller, supported by Commissioner Kyle Grove, to allow for the publication of a public hearing to discuss an application for USDA funding for an Emergency Response Vehicle for the Sheriff's Department.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

3. *Motion by Chairperson Taylor, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to allow all general correspondence for the Board, including emails and postal mail, to be forwarded to the Clerk's Office until further notice. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***
4. *Motion by Chairperson Taylor, supported by Commissioner Diller, to allow the County Clerk's Office to draft monthly committee meetings until further notice. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***
5. *Motion by Commissioner Kyle Grove, supported by Chairperson Taylor, to close the County Buildings to the public until January 4, 2021 or upon further direction of the Board. Discussion on the November 30th MAC meeting noting discussion on how to locally control our "state of emergencies" and the need to have a document in place. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***
6. *Motion by Commissioner Diller, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to allow the Chairperson to sign the 2021 renewal policy with MMRMA. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Motion by Chairperson Taylor, supported by Commissioner Kyle Grove, to appoint the Chairperson, Ronald Taylor, as the Board's authorized representative for the MMRMA policy. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

Comments from the Chairperson:

Commissioner Taylor commented that he is a frustrated at the citizens in this community, noting the Board is erring on the side of caution with the ongoing COVID issues. Commissioner Taylor stated he is looking forward to some "normalcy" soon.

Commissioner Reports by District –**Commissioner Kyle Grove reported:**

- That he has had no meetings to attend in the past two weeks and his meetings all begin tomorrow.

Commissioner Taylor reported:

- That he has also had no meetings to attend.
- On his work with MMRMA to process the claim for Chappel Dam for repairs on the damages done in May.
- That he spoke to the Gladwin City Manager and all meetings have gone to virtual meetings until further notice. The Farmers Market project has been completed and the Business Association and DDA have finalized the downtown speaker system.

Commissioner Diller reported:

- That his county email has been set up and is in use.
- On participating in the Board's special meeting with the Four Lakes Task Force on December 4th, commenting it was very interesting to know what they are doing for the county.
- That his meetings begin tonight in Bourret and Grim Townships.

Commissioner Moore reported:

- That she participated in the November 30th MAC webinar, noting pending legislation that could impact the county.
- On participating in the Four Lake Task Force Organizational Meeting on December 1st.
- That she attended the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 1st.

- On the presentation by MSU on Financial Best Practices for County Government.
- That she participated in the Special Board meeting with the Four Lakes Task Force on December 4th.
- That she will be attending another session of “New Commissioner Training” at 10:00 this morning.
- On the MMRMA Risk Management workshop that is open for registration. Commissioner Moore commented that she will be attending and welcomed and encouraged the other members to register.

Commissioner Rick Grove reported:

- That his meetings start next week, but he will be out of town.
- On his frustration with the virtual meetings, noting he is hopeful for a better 2021.

Public Comments –

Kelly Bax, Coleman, Michigan, stated her concern on the closure of the County Buildings and the potential to block the public from records. Discussion.

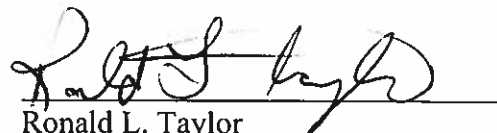
Bob Huntoon, Billings Township, asked who the new representative to the Four Lakes Task Force was.

*Motion by Commissioner Kyle Grove, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to receive and file various correspondence and reports. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

*Motion by Kyle Grove, supported by Commissioner Rick Grove, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m., until the next regular Board meeting on December 22, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise ordered.*



Laura Brandon-Maveal
Gladwin County Clerk



Ronald L. Taylor
Chairperson



November 24, 2020

To: Gladwin County Commissioners
From: David Kepler, Four Lakes Task Force

This memo is in response to the latest list of questions submitted to the Gladwin County Board of Commissioners by Mrs. Kelly Bax related to Four Lakes Task Force, its operations, and policies.

After numerous efforts we have been unable to come to any form of agreement on any issue with Mrs. Bax. We note that FLTF complies with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to obtain documents Any citizen has a right to use the FOIA process, and we encourage them to follow that process if they want specific documents that have not been posted..

Our community has so much to do to recover from the events of May 2020. Our work has been tireless and exhaustive, and we have volunteers working endless hours to help others. We collectively need to respect each other's time in this pursuit.

Included is your requested response to Kelly Bax's questions from the Four Lakes Task Force. We simply cannot and will not continue to address repetitive questions and accusations, or unstructured demand for proof points, nor are we required to do so.

Sincerely

David Kepler
President
Four Lakes Task Force



Requested answers to Kelly Bax's questions that were sent to the Gladwin Commissioners

Question submitted to Gladwin are in bold, and the FLTF answer follows. It should be noted that some questions submitted may have multiple statements, for clarity we have broken that down between Statements (S) and Questions (Q). The content of Mrs. Bax letter is contained in its entirety at the end.

Q: One of my questions is why does Four Lakes Task Force not present to your commission for a vote their budget and as your delegated authority ask for the ok for their spending and any future planning that affects your constituents in Gladwin County with a roll call vote of the commissioners?

In August 2019 FLTF, Midland and Gladwin entered into a contract that governs the process between the parties in connection with the acquisition, operation, maintenance, and improvement of the lake level facilities. This contract was amended, in June 2020, appointing FLTF to coordinate the funding, design, repairs and replacement of the damaged lake level facilities. As part of the contract with the Counties, FLTF provides an annual budget that is reviewed and approved by the Midland and Gladwin County Board of Commissioners.

Q: Since Gladwin County represents 80% of the people who were victimized by this event that caused the flood disaster why are they not receiving the funds directly from the state instead of FLTF?

Gladwin represents approximately 80% of the lake owners; but this statement is disingenuous to the people downstream of the lakes that lost their homes. We are working together as a community. The FLTF board is structured so there is representation from each lake community and one board commissioner from Midland and Gladwin County. There is fair representation.

Q: Since Gladwin County represents 80% of the people who were victimized by this event that caused the flood disaster why are they not receiving the funds directly from the state instead of FLTF?

As stated in the response above, there is a contract between FLTF and the Counties that was amended in June 2020. By resolutions adopted by each of the counties, and per the contract amendment to the FLTF/County agreement, FLTF is the coordinating agency associated with the funding, design, repairs, and replacement of the damaged lake level facilities. To this end, FLTF has applied for and received federal and state financial assistance, and in accordance with Michigan Appropriation bill (See section 949o of the Michigan Public Act 166 of 2020) that was approved by the Michigan Legislature, funding specifically designated to FLTF as the recipient of state funds. The funds provided by the State of Michigan are provided to stabilize, recover, and restore the lakes were directed to FLTF as the Delegated Authority of Midland and Gladwin County. This funding is being matched by Federal funds received from the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS). FLTF is the sponsoring agency that applied for and obtained the NRCS grant and is administering the grant funds to remove debris resulting from the disaster and repairing shoreline erosion occurring on private property. This is one of the few programs that allows for public funds to be used on private property.

S: I feel as a taxpayer that all money for the dams should be handled by the county elected officials not to just allow FLTF an open checkbook.

What "open checkbook"? There have been no funds requested or received from either county. All funds were solicited by FLTF from state and federal sources or private donations and applied to the benefit of the county, with audited reporting to the county.



FLTF is a Michigan non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) organization established to “lessen the burden of government.” The FLTF Board of Directors includes a county commissioner from each of the counties, and representation from each for the lake associations representing the lakes. In accordance with the County resolutions and the August 2019 agreement (between FLTF and Counties), it is understood that all costs in connection with the acquisition, administration, financing, repairs, improvements, operation and maintenance are to be defrayed by special assessments in accordance with the process set forth in Part 307 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

In May 2019, the Midland Circuit Court entered an order confirming the boundaries of the Four Lakes Special Assessment District (SAD). The SAD is administered by the Delegated Authority. The special assessment process will involve (1) preparing a computation of cost; (2) preparation of assessment roll; (3) notice to all property owners in connection with their assessment and special assessment hearing; (4) special assessment hearing to hear objections to assessments; (5) county board of commissioner approval of the assessment roll; and (6) right to appeal. The process is similar to lake improvement boards as set forth in Part 309 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

In summary:

- There are no county general funds appropriated for FLTF use
- All the money that has been received through grants and donations has been the result of FLTF advocacy
- Federal and state authorities have oversight over all grant funding
- There is no personal gain from board members of the FLTF

Q: It was stated at the meeting on 11-10-20 that Midland County has been deemed the fiduciary for the funds that FLTF has access to. Exactly who holds the funds and how was that decision made?

We are unclear about the reference to a fiduciary, and perhaps it can be clarified. In accordance with the agreement between FLTF and the Counties, the counties have common overview of FLTF as their Delegated Authority. As a non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) organization, FLTF receives donations which are used in conformance with the directives of the donor. As stated, FLTF was established to lessen the burden on the counties and community. Funds currently are held in accounts with books that can be audited, and there is a process for tracking funds as they are drawn on grants. These are being spent in the context of the agreements with the Counties.

S: It seems that Gladwin County has 3 dams and 80% more property owners affected so they should have as much or more control in the decision making. All funds acquired for our dams and lakes should sit in a special fund that requires a signature from both counties to use those funds but only after a consensus of a vote in a public forum and only after a formal submission for that expenditure presented to both County Commission Board and with a vote of the majority to approve.

The Board membership of FLTF is reflective of the lake communities and was agreed to by the counties. The exclusive authority for managing lake levels in Michigan is governed by Part 307 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. The special assessment process for funding lake levels is also set forth in Part 307. The counties and FLTF are following the law in connection with managing the lake levels. We are following the Public Act on how to manage Lakes.



Q: Can you provide for me in writing that this newly proposed 40-year SAD of \$2800/yr. from FLTF is legal and all law statutes used to make that determination.

As stated above, the special assessment process is set forth in Part 307, and fundamental due process including required notice and hearings, is required for a special assessment. For purposes of issuing bonds or notes in connection with a Part 307 process, Part 307 was amended by the State Legislature and Governor in 2020 to clarify that the special assessment district could issue debt for up to 40 years. This amendment is consistent with other public work statutes that permit public financing and allows flexibility for financing capital improvements. Lake Level facilities (i.e. dams) have a significant useful life that will permit financing over a longer period, which lowers the annual payment.

The \$2800/yr. is likely an estimate pulled from one of the scenarios of financing for one of the lakes. Please refer to the September Recovery and Restoration Plan on the FLTF website for more information. These are planning estimates that assume the SAD funds 100% of the dams. These are not final numbers but are given for planning purposes. We acknowledge in multiple communications that it is a critical issue and we have a focus to get the assessments lower.

For more details about the legality of the process, please see Part 307 "Inland Lake Levels" of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.30701 et seq.

S: As it was stated yesterday by myself and my husband, FLTF did not have visible to the public meeting minutes or items of discussion like spending and planning.

Public meetings in 2020 were recorded and the full transcript, slides and videotapes were provided. It was an oversight that the meeting minutes were not posted. Once notified, we put the minutes of the meeting, as well as all our committee meetings, online.

S: We do not see who voted for what or how contractors were selected, by whom and any bids.

All votes are public record, and when required we used roll call votes. We follow contract selections properly and according to the law. Consultants (i.e. professional services) are usually not selected by sealed bid nor is it recommended. Selecting professional services via sealed bid is not a best practice.

S: The budget is not broken down like the Commissioners is at each of their meetings.

That is correct; this is not a required. Please see the contract between FLTF and the counties.

Q: I do not understand why Joel Vernier did not obtain the FLTF minutes at each meeting he attended and post them on the county meeting minutes unless there were none.

Again, we apologize for this oversight. The meeting minutes are now posted.

S: Only yesterday did FLTF post meeting minutes on their website and that was only after my husband Anthony Bax put in a FOIA request asking them for that info. You can read the minutes they are vague and lack budget and spending or any planning. This is all very unprofessional in my opinion and lacking any transparency.

The budget and spending is set annually and reviewed with the counties. We do post it. We have reviewed the minutes of the committees and believe they meet the requirements of our charter.



S: The response letter I received from the Gladwin County Commissioners on October 30th, 2020 that you ascertained from Kayla Stryker of FLTF on October 28th, 2020 was to answer my issues and questions I brought up at the Gladwin County Commissioners on 10-27-20. In it, it was stated by FLTF I had been contacted on 10-21-20 by Dave Rothman. He reached out to me unsolicited by phone after I attended the Midland County Commissioners meeting on 10-20-20 to address the questions and concerns I had brought up at that meeting.

FLTF was asked after the Oct. 20, 2020 Midland County Board of Commissioners meeting (BOC), to have someone talk to Mrs. Bax. Dave Rothman was informed that Mrs. Bax had attended that day's BOC meeting and strongly expressed concerns with FLTF. He called Mrs. Bax the next day to ask about her concerns and offered to discuss them with her. According to notes taken by Mr. Rothman related to that conversation, Mrs. Bax said she was concerned about being blocked on Facebook by FLTF and that "everyone is concerned about that." When asked if she had other concerns to discuss, she offered none and asked if Mr. Rothman had any concerns to discuss. He replied that his concerns were not the purpose of the call and again offered to discuss any concerns she had. She did not offer any concerns to discuss, so we politely ended the conversation. Mr. Rothman subsequently inquired into Mrs. Bax's banning from the FLTF Facebook page and learned that she had been banned for use of inaccurate and misleading language.

S: I told him (DAVE ROTHMAN) that doing so over the phone was not appropriate and asked if he would instead have FLTF board set up an open public meeting so that others may benefit. I have never received any further contact from Mr. Rothman or FLTF except for their email response sent to Gladwin County Commissioners.

Given Mrs. Bax's self-expressed lack of other concerns, we saw no reason to contact her again. FLTF and the Counties are in compliance with the Open Meeting Act and follow modifications by the state related to the pandemic.

Q: The reason I attended the Midland County Commissioners meeting was because FLTF was not answering my concerns sufficiently by virtual meeting or at Wixom Lake Association meetings. Can you see my frustration and confusion? Mr. Rothman sits on FLTF board as a director as well as President of the Wixom Lake Association.

We acknowledge that Mrs. Bax has attended multiple meetings dating back to 2018 and including county meetings, the Circuit Court hearing in 2019, Wixom Lake Association meetings and FLTF board meetings. FLTF board members and staff have been responsive, respectful, and open. Note, Dave Rothman is not president of the Wixom Lake Association, but he is a board member of Wixom Lake Association and FLTF.

Q: Why can we not get a public meeting with your delegated authority FLTF, not virtually so the public would benefit? Is it even legal to not hold their meetings publicly? We never see what they vote on or who voted for or against.

COVID-19 prohibits in-person gatherings of large groups and for this reason all meetings will be virtual for the foreseeable future. All FLTF meetings and any meetings when FLTF has met with the counties have been legal and when required have followed the open meeting act and been adjusted based on state orders related to open meetings.



Q: Is it legal that a public, nonprofit 501(c)3 that represents the County as a delegated authority censor people by erasing their comments and blocking them?

Yes, if they are being disrespectful to the rights of others. We assume Mrs. Bax is referring to being banned from the FLTF Facebook page. Once again, the reason is because Mrs. Bax violated, multiple times, our Facebook policy. Mrs. Bax then created the Facebook alias, Ginger Snap, to subvert the banning. The Facebook community reported her, which caused Facebook to permanently ban Ginger Snap.

The purpose of our Facebook page is to share news with the 6,500+ property owners on the lakes. Those who promote inaccurate, inflammatory, and misleading information are doing an injustice to their neighbors and standing in the way of progress on the lakes. There has only been one person banned to date.

Q: What is the counties' opinion of their delegated authority treating their constituents in this manner?

This is a question for the county; however, it bears noting that our Facebook policy as stated on our page is as follows:

We expect that users will not leave comments on posts that fall into the following categories, and we reserve the right to remove postings that are:

- *Abusive, defamatory, or obscene*
- *Fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading*
- *In violation of another's intellectual property rights*
- *In violation of any law or regulation*
- *Otherwise offensive*

The views, opinions, depicted results and experiences expressed in user-submitted-comments are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Four Lakes Task Force. User comments are not edited for accuracy or safety, however, to ensure a continually respectful and factual experience for the community, we may report or remove content or commentary containing spam, profanity or otherwise objectionable or prohibited material subject to the Facebook Code of Conduct and Terms of Use.

Those who violate the policy are banned. This policy was posted July 17 and again August 26.

S: I have been blocked by FLTF's Facebook group as they confirmed in their response letter to the Gladwin County Commissioners and myself. They state I broke their policy without proof or evidence to explain their censoring of me. FLTF has proven to be hostile to myself and others and do not represent Gladwin or Midland County well as their delegated authority. What FLTF do or don't do and says or doesn't say reflects on the counties and holds them accountable as well because they have been given your vote to be your delegated authority.

FLTF welcomes productive and respectful dialogue and we use many channels to respond to information requests.



S: I had asked if the Gladwin County Commissioners would hold one meeting a month during the evening time frame so all property owners that work during the day may be able to attend.

This is not a question for FLTF.

Q: Since the loss of lakes and property concerns is a major concern is it possible to schedule meetings to address this issue only so that there is no time limit or other business to interfere with this matter? Can it be planned also to have FLTF and the County's legal counsel present to be able to answer questions and concerns?

This is a county decision, FLTF believes the counties need to work together, and continue to work in common open forums.

S: Myself and many others say the counties need to end this delegated authority with FLTF and instead work with the community to see if we are able to get federal authorities to send the Corp of Engineers in to help rebuild our community by rebuilding our das.

There is one way to bring these lakes up for the county, and that is under Part 307 as we have described. FLTF and both counties have been in discussion with the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). The dams do not fit the mission of USACE. We have had a productive relationship with USACE related to flood control and management, and are grateful for its support.

S: These dams are used not just to create recreational lakes but can be a clean source of hydro energy and control the flood waters that affect downstream residents and infrastructures. Without flood control there is a risk to human life and to infrastructure as we well now know after May 19th, 2020. The flood control statement is incorrect. The dams were not built for this use, were not used for this, and do not have the basin capacity to be a major factor in flood mitigation. We do agree that flood mitigation is an import aspect to the region, and FLTF is engaged to looking at the management of floods in their current state. We agree that hydropower is a clean source of power, but it will not generate enough revenue to recover or rebuild the dams.

S: Then the counties should hire a dam expert to be the over seer and let them manage the dams and hire the crew needed to operate the dams. The additional tax revenues generated by the lakes and the power assets should be used to maintain, operate, and manage the dams. If our counties were to make that plea to the federal government, the property owners would unite with you to support you and lend our voices and resources.

This is already an accomplished fact. The counties appointed FLTF to acquire and operate the dams. In turn, FLTF engaged experts in dam engineering from 3 different firms, Consumers Energy, state and federal regulators and capital planning experts. FLTF has engaged with FEMA, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Department of Agriculture, and the Small Business Administration to assist in flood recovery. FLTF is in constant communication with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Michigan EGLE Dam Safety regarding dam safety and regulatory matters. FLTF has done all this without spending any Midland or Gladwin County money.

S: I have also presented many questions and concerns at Wixom Lake Association as I stated above without satisfaction.

Yes, we can confirm; Mrs Bax has presented many questions and concerns to the lake associations, FLTF and counties.



KELLY BAX ORIGINAL MESSAGE

From: Kelly Bax <kmbax3893@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 2:23 PM
To: Laura Brandon-Maveal <LauraB@gladwincounty-mi.gov>
Subject: RE: Gladwin County Commissioners mtg 11-24-20

Thanks Laura here is the info you requested. Have a great weekend and I will watch for the Gladwin County Commissioners virtual meeting info and pass code for the 11-24-20 meeting.

To the Gladwin County Commissioners, Laura Maveal - County Clerk and Gayle Reid - County Secretary, 11-12-20

This is the written correspondence requested from me by the Gladwin County Clerk to have answered and entered into your meeting minutes for the Gladwin County Commissioners meeting held on 11-10-20 and so that you may address my questions and concerns. This is the 2nd meeting in a month I have personally attended with issues about Four Lake Task Force and this proposed Special Assessment District that will devalue my properties to no value or negative value. I have had to submit to your office in writing because they were not answered during the public forum by Commissioner Joel Vernier who also sits on the Four Lakes Task Force Board or by the remaining seated commissioners. Written correspondence defeats the purpose of me attending these meetings to get disclosure for myself and others who also attend these Commissioner Meetings in a public manner. It may be beneficial to have a director from the FLTF and your legal council present at the Commissioners meetings to help answer citizens questions and concerns.

A scheduled townhall evening meeting with all sides present would be ideal.

1) One of my questions is why does Four Lakes Task Force not present to your commission for a vote their budget and as your delegated authority ask for the ok for their spending and any future planning that affects your constituents in Gladwin County with a roll call vote of the commissioners?

2) Since Gladwin County represents 80% of the people who were victimized by this event that caused the flood disaster why are they not receiving the funds directly from the state instead of FLTF? I feel as a taxpayer that all money for the dams should be handled by the county elected officials not to just allow FLTF an open checkbook.

3) It was stated at the meeting on 11-10-20 that Midland County has been deemed the fiduciary for the funds that FLTF has access to. Exactly who holds the funds and how was that decision made? It seems that Gladwin County has 3 dams and 80% more property owners affected so they should have as much or more control in the decision making. All funds acquired for our dams and lakes should sit in a special fund that requires a signature from both counties to use those funds but only after a consensus of a vote in a public forum and only after a formal submission for that expenditure presented to both County Commission Board and with a vote of the majority to approve.

4) Can you provide for me in writing that this newly proposed 40 year SAD of \$2800/yr from FLTF is legal and all law statutes used to make that determination.



Four Lakes Task Force has not been transparent throughout their delegated authority to the county commissioners nor the people. As it was stated yesterday by myself and my husband FLTF did not have visible to the public meeting minutes or items of discussion like spending and planning. We do not see who voted for what or how contractors were selected, by whom and any bids. The budget is not broke down like the Commissioners is at each of their meetings. I do not understand why Joel Vernier did not obtain the FLTF minutes at each meeting he attended and post them on the county meeting minutes unless there were none. Only yesterday did FLTF post meeting minutes on their website and that was only after my husband Anthony Bax put in a FOIA request asking them for that info. You can read the minutes they are vague and lack budget and spending or any planning. This is all very unprofessional in my opinion and lacking any transparency.

The response letter I received from the Gladwin County Commissioners on October 30th, 2020 that you ascertained from Kayla Stryker of FLTF on October 28th, 2020 was to answer my issues and questions I brought up at the Gladwin County Commissioners on 10-27-20. In it was stated by FLTF I had been contacted on 10-21-20 by Dave Rothman. He reached out to me unsolicited by phone after I attended the Midland County Commissioners meeting on 10-20-20 to address the questions and concerns I had brought up at that meeting. I told him that doing so over the phone was not appropriate and asked if he would instead have FLTF board set up an open public meeting so that others may benefit. I have never received any further contact from Mr. Rothman or FLTF except for their email response sent to Gladwin County Commissioners. The reason I attended the Midland County Commissioners meeting was because FLTF was not answering my concerns sufficiently by virtual meeting or at Wixom Lake Association meetings. Can you see my frustration and confusion. Mr. Rothman sits on FLTF board as a director as well as President of the Wixom Lake Association.

5) Why can we not get a public meeting with your delegated authority FLTF, not virtually so the public would benefit? Is it even legal to not hold their meetings publicly? We never see what they vote on or who voted for or against.

6) Is it legal that a public non profit 501(c)3 that represents the County as a delegated authority censor people by erasing their comments and blocking them? What is the counties opinion of their delegated authority treating their constituents in this manner?

I have been blocked by FLTF's Facebook group as they confirmed in their response letter to the Gladwin County Commissioners and myself. They state I broke their policy without proof or evidence to explain their censoring of me. FLTF has proven to be hostile to myself and others and do not represent Gladwin or Midland County well as their delegated authority. What FLTF do or don't do and says or doesn't say reflects on the counties and holds them accountable as well because they have been given your vote to be your delegated authority.

7) I had asked if the Gladwin County Commissioners would hold one meeting a month during the evening time frame so all property owners that work during the day may be able to attend.

8) Since the loss of lakes and property concerns is a major concern is it possible to schedule meetings to address this issue only so that there is no time limit or other business to interfere with this matter? Can it be planned also to have FLTF and the County's legal council present to be able to answer questions and concerns?



Myself and many others say the counties need to end this delegated authority with FLTF and instead work with the community to see if we are able to get federal authorities to send the Corp of Engineers in to help rebuild our community by rebuilding our dams. These dams are used not just to create recreational lakes but can be a clean source of hydro energy and control the flood waters that affect downstream residents and infrastructures.

Without flood control there is a risk to human life and to infrastructure as we well now know after May 19th, 2020. Then the counties should hire a dam expert to be the over seer and let them manage the dams and hire the crew needed to operate the dams. The additional tax revenues generated by the lakes and the power assets should be used to maintain, operate and manage the dams. If our counties were to make that plea to the federal government the property owners would unite with you to support you and lend our voices and resources.

I ask that this email not be forwarded to Four Lakes Task Force. I understand you will need to ask FLTF to help you answer many of my questions and concerns that pertains to them. I ask that you please do so through your own correspondence. If Four Lakes Task Force chooses to block me and treat me with hostility so that I may not ask them these questions directly then I too choose to do my correspondence through the duly elected officials that represent me and my needs. I have also presented many questions and concerns at Wixom Lake Association as I stated above without satisfaction. I look forward to your reply to this email. I also ask that you enter the responses generated by my email to be entered into the public record so others may benefit from it.
Thank you for that courtesy.

Mrs. Kelly Bax